Scheduled Tribe students in the under-graduate programmes at the Indian Institutes of Technology, several measures such as lowering the cut-off point in the Joint Entrance Examination and conduct of preparatory courses have been taken by these Institutes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The group has made in all six recommendations. Out of six, three relating directly to the IITs have been implemented. The remaining three involve action at many fronts. Action to implement them is in progress.

Legislation for mandatory insurance scheme for victims of hazardous wastes

*120. SHRI RAOOF VALLULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to initiate legislation to introduce mandatory insurance scheme for victims by the companies dealing in hazardous wastes; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to check pollution in view of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court directing five chemical companies near Udaipur to deposit Rs. one lakh each for the removal of sludge from the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir; Government have under consideration a proposal for legislation, making it mandatory for all hazardous chemical industries to take a public liability insurance cover for providing immediate relief to victims on a prescribed scale in case of accidents. The insurance cover is proposed to be on the basis of 'no fault liability'.

(b) The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board has already been directed to render the sludge inactive. The defaulting units M/s Silver Chemicals and M/s Jyoti Chemicals have been closed down and the three other units in the area are being closely monitored to ensure that their emissions and effluents are within the prescribed standards.

Forest Conservation Acts

832. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the flaws in the existing Forest Conservation Acts in force in different states; due to which the conservation of forests is not successful to full extent;

(b) if so, whether any direction has been given by Government to the States to review and amend their Forest Conservation Acts; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Government of India had enacted Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is applicable to all States except Jammu and Kashmir. This Act has been amended by the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 1988 and has been brought into force with a view to remove flaws in the earlier legislation and to make the implementation of the Act more efficient and stringent. Guidelines have been issued by the Central Government to the State Governments for the proper implementation of the Act.